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Rural District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

CHARLES A. MASON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspectors.



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Cockermouth :
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1946

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Cockermouth Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1945, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health, dated 16th February, 1940. and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received June, 1945.

Happily this year saw the end of the war, but its official ending actuated the need for much thought and arrangements of a post-war nature, to which the Council, in common with other authorities, devoted its attention.

My thanks are again due to those Observers of Rainfall in the district, shown on page 5, for their courtesy in supplying their records.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 161,312 (inclusive of area covered by water).

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-1944)
(see Page 6) 17,780

Number of inhabited houses (end 1945) according to
Rate Book 5,205

Rateable Value £95,169

Sum represented by Penny Rate:—Gross £396

Estimated produce of a Penny Rate, £375

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Legitimate	262	146	116	Birth Rate (R.G.)
Births Illegitimate	27	12	15	16.2
Still Births ...	6	1	5	Rate per 1,000
				Total (live and still) births 20.3

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	201	101	100	Crude Death Rate

(R.G.) 11.3 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Maternal Mortality:—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	0	Nil
Total	0	Nil

Infantile Mortality:—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 14

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births (approximately) 48

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53

Illegitimate „ Illegitimate „ Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

Deaths from Cancer 23

Table showing RAINFALL in inches, in 1945, compiled from observers in various parts of the district.

Observation Station ...	Daan School	At Crosthwaite Keswick, about 440 yards from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Higham	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite,	South Lodge, Cockermouth, within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer ...	H. Irwin, Esq.	T. Wilson, Esq.	Miss Fisher.	J. P. Hallam Esq., Engineer to Manchester Corporation Water Works	C. Barnes Esq.	J. Armstrong, Esq.
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 in.	5 in.	5 in.	8 in.	5 in.
Height of gauge above ground	11 in.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.
Height of gauge above sea level	365 ft.	254 ft.	500 ft.	620 ft.	400 ft.	242 ft.
1945.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January	2'41	4'34	2'72	6'02	5'75	3'15
February	5'23	6'90	5'28	11'03	7'44	4'07
March	3'43	4'38	2'69	5'73	4'72	3'24
April	2'63	2'83	3'00	4'73	3'17	2'16
May	5'45	5'87	6'03	7'48	7'15	6'26
June	4'07	3'92	3'64	6'83	4'85	3'18
July	4'08	4'91	4'20	6'44	5'42	3'01
August	2'35	2'79	2'84	2'36	3'18	2'59
September	4'62	6'38	4'01	9'11	5'83	3'71
October	5'33	7'18	4'72	11'06	8'02	4'66
November	3'38	4'42	4'40	8'82	8'84	4'27
December	3'16	4'81	2'86	8'12	5'20	2'35
Totals	43'14	54'82	42'39	79'73	62'47	38'65
Average prev. 5 yrs (1940-44 incl)	46'81	55'70 (Av. 43 yrs. 56'81)	42'17	83'52 (Av. 68 yrs 81'74)	61'47	(Av. 8 yrs. incl. /45 41'60)

Cockermouth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, for the year 1945.

The area of the district in statute acres is 161,312 (approximately 4,700 of which are covered by inland water).

POPULATION.

For 1945 the figure given for the resident population of the district by the Registrar General is 17,780, on which the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—Figures relating to non-civilians are excluded.
(The figure for 1944 was 18,170).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

In the Cockermouth Rural District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief was 494, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 36 of the population. (1944—300 persons, and 1 in 61 of population).

Eighteen persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 988 of the population. (1944—12 persons, and 1 in 1,514 of population).

The numbers for 1945 are detailed *as follows:—

Registration		Out-door Relief	Indoor
Sub-district			
Cockermouth	...	68	11
Maryport	...	197	2
Workington	...	134	2
Keswick	...	4	2
Aspatria	...	91	1
		—	—
		494	18

*I am indebted to Mr. J. T. Gill, Clerk to the Guardians Committee, for these figures.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—The total number of live births registered in and belonging to the district in 1945 was 289 (158 males and 131 females). Of these 27 (12 males and 15 females) were illegitimate. The net live birth rate is accordingly 16.2 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15.3 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Birth Rates, 1945—Cumberland	17.4
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.5
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.2
England and Wales	16.1
Cockermouth Rural District	16.2

The percentage of illegitimate live births is approximately 9.3 as compared with 5.4 in 1944.

Still Births.—6 still births (all legitimate) were also registered, giving a still birth rate of 0.33 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 0.27 for 1944. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.46).

The still birth rate per 1000 total live and still births was 20.3 as compared with 14.7 for 1944.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths (civilian, only), registered as belonging to the district was 201 (101 males and 100 females), i.e., after correcting for non-residents dying within the district and for those persons whose usual residence was within the district dying outside the district. This gives a crude death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.2 for the previous year.

The adjustment factor, or Areal Comparability Factor, has not been provided by the Registrar General for 1945, so the adjusted death rate cannot be given.

Comparisons of crude death rates are shewn below:—

	Crude
Death Rates, 1945—Cumberland	12.7
Rural Districts of Cumberland	12.0
Urban Districts of Cumberland	13.8
England and Wales	11.4
Cockermouth Rural District	11.3

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 8.)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 48 per 1,000 births, as compared with 66 for the preceding year.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945.

Causes of Death		All Causes	Males 101	Females 100
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	0	0
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	0	0
4.	Whooping-cough	...	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	2	3
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	0	2
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	0	0
9.	Influenza	...	0	0
10.	Measles	...	0	0
11.	Ac: Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	1	0
12.	Ac: inf: encephalitis	...	0	0
13.	Cancer of b: cav: and oesoph: (M.) Uterus (F.)	...	0	3
14.	„ stomach and duodenum	...	1	3
15.	„ breast	...	0	3
16.	„ all other sites	...	4	9
17.	Diabetes	...	0	1
18.	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	...	15	12
19.	Heart Dis:	...	31	29
20.	Other Dis: of circulatory system	...	5	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	5	3
22.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	1	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	0	2
26.	Appendicitis	...	0	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	3	0
28.	Nephritis	...	1	0
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion: sepsis	...	0	0
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	0	0
31.	Premature Birth	...	2	0
32.	Congen: malform: birth inj: infant dis.	...	6	2
33.	Suicide	...	1	0
34.	Road Traffic acc:	...	0	0
35.	Other violent causes	...	4	4
36.	All other causes	...	16	14
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total		...	8	6
Legitimate		...	8	6
Illegitimate		...	0	0
			M	F
LIVE BIRTHS	} Total	...	158	131
		...	146	116
		...	12	15
STILL BIRTHS	} Total	...	1	5
		...	1	5
		...	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Bronchitis			1		1					1
Gastro-Enteritis				1	1	1				2
Premature Birth	2				2					2
Infantile Convulsions	1				1					1
Acute Tubercular Meningitis									1	1
Melaena Neonatorum	1				1					1
Congenital Malformation	1				1	1				2
Birth Injuries	2		1		3					3
Haemorrhage of Umbilical Cord with Haemophylia	1				1					1
All Causes (certified)	8		2	1	11	2			1	14 RG

Five out of the nine deaths in the first column above died within two days, including 1 two hours after birth, 3 others in one day and 1 in two days.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1945—

Cumberland	...	48
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	43
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	50
England and Wales	...	46
Cockermouth Rural District	...	48

No death occurred among illegitimate infants so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate was nil per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 53 per 1,000 legitimate births. These rates were respectively 111 and 63 for the previous year.

(For Infant Mortality see page 9).

SENILE DEATH RATE.

131 persons (62 males and 69 females) had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 65.1 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with a percentage of 50.4 for 1944.

17 (7 m 10f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
33 (16 m 17f)	"	70 and 75
38 (19 m 19f)	"	75 and 80
26 (13 m 13f)	"	80 and 85
8 (4 m 4f)	"	85 and 90
7 (2 m 5f)	"	90 and 95
2 (1 m 1f)	"	at 95 and 96 years, respectively

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were 9 inquests (5 of which were held outside the district). Four Coroner's Certificates were received of cases where post-mortem examinations had been made but no inquest held.

Nine deaths were uncertified (1944—4).

Violence.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.50 per 1000 of the population in the Cockermouth Rural District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1000 of the population:—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Deaths	2	1	2	nil	15	8	19	9
% of all causes	.98	.49	.98	nil	7.35	3.98	0.31	4.47
D R. pr 1000 population	.110	.056	.110	nil	.825	.449	1.045	.506

The deaths from Violence in 1945 include 2 from occupational accidents (1 pit and 1 limekiln), 2 from falls with broken leg, 1 from fall with spinal injury, 1 gun-shot wound (suicide), 1 drowning (accidental fall into rain water tub), 1 asphyxiation by carbon dioxide gas (old pit shaft accident), and 1 from cerebral injuries due to an accidental fall from a horse.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 23 cases, as follows:—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females
Alimentary	Oesophagus ...		1
	Stomach ...	1	2
	Bowel ...		1
	Rectum ...	1	
Glandular	Breast ...		3
	Prostate ...	1	
	Thyroid ...		1
Urinary	Bladder ...		1
Renal	Kidney ...		1
Respiratory	Lung ...	1	
	Larynx ...		1
Reproductive	Uterus ...		3
	Cervix ...		1
	Ovary ...		1
Other	Axilla ...		1
	Mediastinum ...		1
	Orbit ...	1	

1 of the deaths (m)	occurred among persons between	30 and 40 years of age
6 " (1m 5f)	" "	50 and 60 "
4 " (f)	" "	60 and 70 "
5 " (1m 4f)	" "	70 and 80 "
5 " (2m 3f)	" "	80 and 90 "
2 " (f)	" at 29 (stomach) and 96 (breast) years respectively	

The 23 deaths correspond to a death rate of 1.29 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 25 deaths and a death rate of 1.37 in 1944. Approximately out of every 9 deaths of persons in this district one was due to cancer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 25

There were 7 deaths due to Tuberculosis.

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory System	2	3	5
Other Forms	0	2	2
All cases	2	5	7

All of the deaths were of previously notified cases in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .39 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .55 for 1944.

The "Consumption" (i.e. Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate was .28 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with last year's figure of .49.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

2. Two full-time Sanitary Inspectors:—

(i.) Senior S.I.—Mr. George Nelson, who holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also a special Certificate of the London City Guilds for Sanitation and Plumbing.

(ii) Additional S.I.—Mr. Reginald Mather, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

3. Mr. Denys Hinde, clerk and assistant, was still serving in H.M. Forces and a temporary female clerk was employed.

The work of the Council's Engineering Staff (Sanitary and Water) under Mr. A. E. Simpson, A.M.I.C.E., is to some extent connected with this department; Mr. S. Feather, A.M.I.C.E., is his Deputy.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with investigations of certain cases of illness during the year, 1945:—

Material	Test applied for—	Result	
		Pos.	Neg.
Throat or Nose swabs	Diphtheria	5	18
" "	Vincent's Angina	0	2
" "	Haemolytic Streptococci	2	13
Sputum	Tuberculosis	4	19
Rectal Swab	Typhoid group	0	1
" "	Dysentery (Sonne)	3	0
Blood	Typhoid group	0	3
"	Syphilis	0	1
"	Re. Food Poisoning	1	1

Other particulars under Provision of Health services remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Generally speaking, with few exceptions, this district is well covered with public and private water mains.

Samples of water from nine schemes were taken for chemical and bacteriological analysis with results as follows:—

Comb Ghyll, Borrowdale.—Very soft water. Good purity for untreated stream. Plumbo-solvency practically nil. (Filtration will be provided for in the proposed new scheme).

Force Crag Supply.—Tap at Post Office, Braithwaite. Very soft water. No plumbo-solvency. Pure.

Routenbeck Spring, Dubwath Supply.—Tap at Mr Clark's. Good and safe. No plumbo-solvency.

Stoneycroft Ghyll, Tap Swinside Inn.—Soft. No plumbo-solvency. Pure.

Sunderland Supply. Tap at Post Office. Temporary hard. No plumbo-solvency. Safe.

Bassenthwaite Village Supply.—Tap at Post Office. Not entirely satisfactory. Slight pollution. Slight plumbo-solvency.

A source of pollution was found to be from some farm-drainage at a point some distance above the intake and outside this district boundary. Immediate steps were taken in conjunction with the neighbouring authority to obviate the pollution. Extra attention was paid to the filter bed. At the time of writing it may be said that it is proposed to increase the depth of sand on the bed.

Hause-ghyll Supply.—Tap at Highgate Farm, Bewaldeth. Safe. Very slight plumbo-solvency.

Embleton Supply.—Tap at Mrs. Tiffins. Safe, but definite plumbo-solvency. Lead piping has been restricted since inception of scheme.

Lorton Supply.—Rising Sun Cottages.—For bacteriological analysis only:—Satisfactory.

The population reckoned to be supplied from public mains direct to houses is 15,445; houses supplied approximately 4,470.

There are no properties in this district which are supplied by stand-pipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, P.H.A., 1936).

Crummock Scheme.—The periodic shortage and discoloration of water from this supply previously complained of, still remains to be remedied.

New Works.—At Greysouthen.—A covered service reservoir of concrete (10,000 gallons capacity) constructed to increase the storage capacity for the Village and Overend area, and 483 lin. yds. of 4in. "Everite" main laid from Tarn Bank to the new reservoir (by direct connection from 5in. main).

Hause Ghyll Scheme.—An additional filter bed (57 sq. yds.) has been constructed at Hause Ghyll Intake Works.

Extensions of Water Mains during the year :—

Broughton Moor.—To the North Eastern Housing Association, opposite the School.

46 lin. yds. of 3in. cast iron pipes relaid.

Blindbothel.—From Mosser Vicarage to Paddle School and Palace Howe Farm, 350 lin. yds. of 1½in. galvanised iron main.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The system of Drainage and Sewerage throughout the district remain as detailed in my 1925 and subsequent reports.

Extensions of Main Sewers :—The following extensions were carried out during 1945 :—

To new housing site at Broughton Moor.—45 lin. yds. 6in. pipes.

To new housing site at Dearham.—30 lin. yds. 6in. pipes.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

In the villages where there are public sewers the drainage of 4 houses has been connected and 4 privies have been converted to the Water-Carriage system during the year.

In several villages and hamlets where public sewers were provided prior to the war there are dwelling-houses where the private drainage and sanitary work has not yet been carried out, enforcement having been left in abeyance during war time. On the grounds of public health and economy in the cost of removal of house refuse, etc., this work should be insisted upon as soon as building labour and material are available.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The removal of ashes and house refuse and the cleansing of privy middens are contracted for by the Council in the parishes shown in the table below, in which is given the number of houses involved and the contractual cost (including provision and upkeep of tips, wheeling out, etc., and relating to the financial year ending 31st March, 1946.

Owing to war time costs and shortage of labour and transport, there have been many difficulties in connection with removal and disposal of house refuse. Every possible effort continues to be made to meet such difficulties, but it was agreed that review of this important service would have early post-war consideration.

From the table it will be observed the total number of houses covered by these contracts is approximately 4,076, and the total cost for the year £2,046 7s 10d. (Average cost per house was approximately 10s 1d* per annum or 2½d per week).

Parish(or part)	Approx. No. of Houses.		Total Cost		
			£	s	d
Allerby & Oughterside	170	...	100	0	7
Above Derwent	316	...	249	2	9
Borrowdale	124	...	107	18	7
Brigham (and Broughton Cross)	197	...	55	0	0
Broughton	332	...	85	9	0
Broughton Moor	212	...	68	4	1
Blinderake	54	...	30	18	1
Bothel & Threapland	76	...	62	0	0
Crosscanonby	218	..	121	19	1
Camerton	54	...	25	10	7
Dearham	510	...	252	10	6
Eaglesfield	51	...	34	17	0
Embleton	47	...	30	0	0
Gilcrux	80	...	71	18	4
Greysouthen	131	...	75	0	0
Great Clifton	354	...	116	8	8
Little Clifton and Bridgefoot	107	...	38	0	0
Lorton	89	...	54	10	6
Papcastle	26	...	61	12	9
Plumbland	100	...	63	6	4
Seaton	585	...	170	10	6
Setmurthy	21	...	7	10	0
Underskiddaw	91	...	97	0	0
Winscales (Furnace Row)	35	...	59	10	6
Wythop	16	...	7	10	0
	4076		£2046	7	10

A system of house refuse removal by private contract is still arranged by householders in Bassenthwaite Village.

*The figure for 1944 was 9s 11d and not as printed.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The inclusive summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors, in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be found at the end of this report (commencing on page 27). The amount of routine work carried out continued to be large and, of course, extra duties and responsibilities in connection with the war remained as before.

I again record my appreciation of the friendly co-operation of the Council's staff as a whole and, in particular, that of the two Sanitary Inspectors, and I am also again indebted to Mr. Nelson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable assistance in compiling my annual report. (Mr. Nelson, also, continued as the Council's Chief Billeting Officer and Food Decontamination Officer, with Mr. Mather as deputy.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There were 36 shops on the register and 44 inspections made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1945 :—

Premises.	number	Inspec- tions	Defects Found	Number of Written Notices.	Defects Remedied
Factories with mechanical power	19	32	2	3	2
Factories without do	48	41	0	0	0
Other Premises under Act	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	67	73	2	3	2

HOLIDAY CAMPING.

A site near Ouse Bridge used as an organised camping ground was closed on account of its unsuitability.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

At the request of the Ministry of Food, in common with other local authorities in the County, the Council agreed to the County Council delegating powers to them to administer the above Act for the duration of hostilities.

The present arrangements are that all infestations on agricultural land and properties are dealt with by the "Pests Officers" of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee and all others by the Council's Public Health Department.

No "Reservoir" or "Major" infestations have been observed and all other infestations dealt with by poison baits.

The duty of giving advice and supplying poison free has also been continued and helpful co-operation has been received from the "Pests Officers" of the County W.A.E.C.

During the year 75 tins of rat poison with instructions have been issued for use by occupiers of private premises with satisfactory results while the Council's various refuse tips and sewage works have been "dosed" from time to time whenever found necessary.

Housing.

PLANS PASSED —

- (a) New Dwelling-houses, 151.
- (b) Enlargements or renovations of dwelling-houses, 12.
- (c) Other buildings (including 8 dairy cowsheds), 45.

No new houses were erected in this district during the year. One house (at Broughton Moor) was converted into two by private enterprise.

POST WAR HOUSING PROGRAMME.

In continuance of its Housing policy to meet housing needs in the district and in response to the request of the Ministry of Health, the Council formulated proposals for the commencement of Post War building of Municipal Houses and the following shows the programme as amended:—

Post War First Year.—148.

Dearham 40	Broughton Moor 32.
Crosby 30.	Brigham 46.

Post War Second Year.—254.

Seaton 80: Braithwaite 12. Bassenthwaite 12. Bothel 12.
 Dovenby (Bridekirk) 12. Broughton 50. Little Clifton 32.
 Borrowdale 12. Deanscales 6. Camerton 6. Plumbland 20.

The North Eastern Housing Association agreed to undertake the erection of the above houses and in preparation several sites were purchased and a commencement actually made with roads and sewers.

The need for more and better housing accommodation has been made much more acute by six years of war during which time Slum Clearance and repair work had to stand in abeyance. Also with the return of Servicemen and Women who have married during the War and the fact that West Cumberland is now a Development Area the anxieties and responsibilities of Housing Authorities have been correspondingly increased and this at a time when progress in building is likely to be slow owing to shortage of skilled labour and building materials.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 64/44 (HOBHOUSE REPORT.)

The request for this Post War Survey of Working Class houses in Rural Districts was made by the Ministry of Health in order that the houses may be classified as follows:—

- (1) Houses fit for habitation or with minor defects only.
- (2) Houses requiring structural alterations or repair.
- (3) Houses requiring re-conditioning.
- (4) Houses requiring demolition and replacement.

Further progress has been made in this District with the Survey and up to the end of 1945, 1001 houses had been inspected. The Survey is still in progress but as will be appreciated a large amount of work and consideration is involved. After completion, it is intended to submit the results to the Council in a Special Report.

Housing Appendix.

STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts (including Special Survey) ...	766
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	846
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	0
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (excluding Special Survey) ...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (excluding Special Survey) ...	41

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	29
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	33
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	17
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

There were 596 registered dairy premises and of this number the occupiers may be classified as follows: 455 producers and wholesalers of milk, 75 producers and retailers, 6 retail purveyors and 60 producers and butter-makers.

452 inspections were carried out.

19 registered dairy premises were improved under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, these include 1 new dairy cowshed. In addition, 10 separate milk cooler houses were provided. A separate cooler house is an essential factor in clean milk production, but there are still a number of farms lacking in this respect.

In this district 40 producers held licences for the production of milk under "Special Designations" as follows:—

16 Tuberculin Tested. 24 Accredited.

The Milk Marketing Board, the Express Dairy Co., and the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. continue to collect a considerable quantity of milk daily from this district.

This Council has continued to co-operate with the County Council in the scheme of the latter for general milk-sampling, including Designated, School, and Ungraded Milk.

The total number of samples taken in this district by the Council's Sanitary officers were 231, of which 105 (or 45.5 per cent) were unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint—vide table below.

Result of the Bacteriological examinations of Milk Samples, 1945:—

Designation.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Totals.
T. T.	35	25	60
Accredited	64	37	101
Ungraded	27	43	70
	—	—	—
Totals	126	105	231

NOTE.—In the above table are included 40 School Milk samples, 22 of which come in the unsatisfactory group.

Of the 105 unsatisfactory regarding cleanliness and keeping qualities 6 were borderline cases. One sample taken near the end of the previous year eventually proved positive for tubercle bacilli and the affected animal in the herd involved was slaughtered.

Mr. John Reid, Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has kindly supplied me with the following figures relating to work done under the Authority:—

Particulars of Animals Slaughtered under the Tuberculosis
Order of 1938, from premises registered in the Cockermouth
Rural District, during the year 1945

Total number of Animals Slaughtered	...	...	11
Cows in Milk	...	...	8
Other Cows or Heifers	...	...	3
Other Bovine Animals	...	...	0
Types of Disease Found at post-mortem:—			
Tuberculosis of Udder	...	...	3
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	...	...	0
Tuberculosis with Chronic Cough and showing definite Clinical signs	...	...	8

The co-operation of, and joint inspections with, the veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continued harmonious and helpful in matters relating to dairy work and milk production.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering in private slaughter houses was suspended by the Ministry of Food as a war-time measure and all slaughtering is being carried on in regional slaughter-houses.

Private slaughter houses in the district have therefore only been used as meat stores and for making-up purposes, the butchers receiving their supplies of meat from Maryport and Workington abattoirs.

By arrangement with the Maryport Urban District Council assistance continues to be rendered, as and when required, in the work of meat inspection at the Maryport Abattoir by the appropriate officials of this (C.R.D.) Council.

In addition 89 inspections have been made for meat stores in the district.

.....

Bakehouses.—There remain 13 registered bakehouses in the district, 6 of which are domestic. No serious defects were found during the year.

.....

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1945 in the Cockermouth Rural District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, was 273. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number=108. (The figure for 1944 was 39).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1945.

Disease	Total cases notified in C.R.D.	Cases notified 1945 admitted to hospital	Deaths of notified cases
Small-pox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	7	7	1
Scarlet Fever	69	58	0
Enteric Fever (including nil Para-Typhoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Measles	145	0	0
Whooping Cough	20	0	0
Dysentery (Sonne)	5	0	0
Tuberculosis:—			
Pulmonary			
Males	9	4 (San.)	2
Females	7	4 ..	1
Non-Pulmonary			
Males	3	0 (Hosp-)	0
Females	7	4	2

.....

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1945.

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	J'ly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	2	7	11	10	17	8	6	5		2	1	— 69
Diphtheria											7	— 7
Pneumonia (all forms)											1	— 1
Dysentery (Sonne)			5									— 5
Measles	51	40	9	20	22	2		1				— 145
Whoop. Cough	3	6	1			1	2	1	2	1		3— 20
Tuberculosis:												
Pulmonary	2	2		3	1	1	1		3	3		— 16
Other Forms		2		1		2	1		1	1	2	— 10

The following table gives the age incidence of each disease notified during the year.

Cases notified in 1945.													
Notifiable Disease.	Ages—years												
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & upwards.
Diphtheria	7						3		3	1			
Scarlet Fever	69		1	2	5	3	27	19	8	3	1		
Pneumonia	1			1									
Measles	145	3	13	5	22	20	66	12	1	1	1	1	
Whooping Cough	20	2	1	3	2	3	7	1			1		
Dysentery (mild bac.)	5						2	1		1		1	
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary M. ...	9									4	2	3	
F. ...	7							1		4		2	
Non-Pulmonary M. ...	3						1	1	1				
F. ...	7	1					2	1		3			
Ages at death during the year													
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary M. ...	2										1	1	
F. ...	1											1	
Non-Pulmonary M. ...													
F. ...	2	1					1						

From notifications received it is deduced that 1 in every 165 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chickenpox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and Tuberculosis Regulations. (In 1944 the figures were 1 in 466.

(Vide Post re Measles and Whooping Cough)

Diphtheria

7

There were 7 notifications (see Distribution Table page 28) with removal to hospital in each instance; all were in November. Five of them belonged to a boarding school of young children that had been evacuated to this district during the war; no case was severe and precautions instituted at the school resulted in the outbreak quickly ending. One of the school cases had not been proved bacteriologically positive and one was said to have received immunisation doses some years previously.

The case rate of Diphtheria per 1,000 of the population was therefore .39, as compared with .38 for 1944. (The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 0.46).

The Diphtheria death rate per 1,000 of the population was nil, as compared with 0.5 for 1944. The rate (1945) for England and Wales was .02.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (entailing since its inception, by the way, a great deal of unseen work) most of the actual inoculations again being given by me at the local public elementary schools and at Cockermouth School Clinic; as in previous years, I am grateful, again, for the co-operation of local Medical Practitioners, Head Teachers, the various District Nurses, and particularly the County Health Visitor, Miss Lawson.

During the year under review 53 elementary school children and 153 infants of 1 to 5 years were immunised by me personally, i.e., officially.

I find that at the end of the year the numbers of children in the Cockermouth Rural District *officially* immunised, i.e., those who have received two immunising doses of A.P.T. (Alum Praecipitated Toxoid) as sponsored by the Ministry of Health, amount to 3,523 since inoculations were commenced in 1941—split up into age groups as follows:—

Infants 1 to 5 years.....	988.	Children 5 to 15 years.....	2,535
Total, 3,523.			

(N.B.—Infants under one year of age are not inoculated).

Epidemic characteristics were in evidence regarding Scarlet Fever as shown by the sixty-nine cases, though they were mainly mild in type (1944—8). Vide distribution table page 22. 58 were removed to Hospital. No death occurred, so that the death rate from Scarlet Fever was again nil.

The case rate of Scarlet Fever per 1000 of the population was therefore, 3.8 as compared with 0.44 for 1944. (The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 1.89, and death rate .00).

There were no cases of Typhoid or Para-typhoid Fever notified.

The case rate and death rate for these per 1000 population were therefore both nil. (For England and Wales in 1945 the Typhoid and Para-typhoid case rates were each .01, whilst the combined death rate of these two fevers was 0.00).

One case of Pneumonia was notified, and it recovered. The registered deaths from this disease (all forms) numbered 4.

Encephalitis Lethargica, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Acute Polio-myelitis, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No notifications.

No notification of Puerperal Pyrexia was received. (N.B.—This term includes Puerperal Fever).

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate was nil per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births), the same as in 1944. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 15.87.

No maternal death was recorded, so that the Maternal Mortality (all causes) rate was therefore nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births as compared with 2.9 (one death) in 1944.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (9 males and 7 females) and 10 of Other Forms of Tuberculosis (3 males and 7 females) were notified. Of those notified during the year eight pulmonary cases (4 males and 4 females) were admitted to Sanatorium, and 4 non-pulmonary (females) are known to have received Hospital treatment, whilst 4 died (1 male and 1 female pulmonary and 2 females non-pulmonary). Among previously notified and inward transfer cases (and including re-admittances) 4 cases (3 males, 1 female, pulmonary) were admitted to Sanatorium.

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 11

The following table gives the number of new cases and Mortality (all cases):—

1945	Age	New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5—10	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
	10—15	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
	15—20	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
	20—25	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
	25—35	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
	35—45	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	45—55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	55—65	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	65—and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Totals	9	7	3	7	2	3	0	2

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1945 was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ..	39	25	64
Non-pulmonary ..	18	18	36
	—	—	—
All Cases ..	57	43	100

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease.—Influenza was prevalent (though not markedly so) during the Winter months, and no death was attributed to this disease—equivalent to an influenza death rate of nil per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .16 (3 deaths) for 1914. The rate for England and Wales (1945) was 0.08.

.....

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939.—According to notifications received measles affected at least seventeen parishes more or less, particularly Seaton (24), Bothel (6), Underskiddaw (7), St. John's-in-the-Vale (7), Great Clifton (7), Dearham (38), Above Derwent (39), and Bassenthwaite (15); notifications numbered 145. Whooping Cough affected seven parishes, notifications numbering 20 of which 3 belonged to Seaton, 5 to Gilcrux, 1 to Borrowdale, 1 to Plumland, 3 to Crosscanonby, 3 to Above Derwent, and 4 to Oughterside and Allerby.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications) were, respectively 8.15 and 1.12 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 11.67 and 1.64 for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (similar to the previous year), the death rate for each being therefore nil, as compared with 0.02 and 0.02, respectively in England and Wales.

.....

Hospital accommodation as provided by the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases remained as in the preceding year.

.....

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

During 1945 no public elementary school in the Cockermouth Rural District was closed on account of Infectious Disease.

The following table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever in the various parishes:—

1945.	Parish.	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever.
	Above Derwent	—	—	—
	Allerby and Oughterside	—	—	—
	Bassenthwaite	5	—	—
	Bewaldeth, &c.	—	—	—
	Blinderake, incl. Isel Old Park and Sunderland	—	—	—
	Bothel and Threapland	—	—	—
	Bridekirk (incl. Dovenby and Tallantire)	—	3	—
	Gt. and Lt. Broughton	—	10	—
	Broughton Moor	—	10	—
	Blindbothel incl. Mosser & Whinfell	—	—	—
	Borrowdale	—	—	—
	Brigham	—	3	—
	Buttermere incl. Brackenthwaite	—	—	—
	Camerton, incl. Ribton	—	1	—
	Great Clifton	—	2	—
	Little Clifton	—	—	—
	Crosscanonby	—	2	—
	Dearham	2	13	—
	Dean, incl. Eaglesfield &c.	—	1	—
	Embleton	—	—	—
	Gilcrux	—	—	—
	Greysouthen	—	4	—
	Lorton	—	3	—
	Loweswater and Mockerkin	—	4	—
	Papcastle	—	—	—
	Plumbland, &c.	—	1	—
	Seaton	—	10	—
	St. John's-in-the-Vale	—	1	—
	Setmurthy	—	—	—
	Underskiddaw, incl. Skiddaw	—	—	—
	Winscales	—	1	—
	Wythop	—	—	—
	Totals.. ...	7	69	0

Summary of Work

OF THE

Rural Council's Sanitary Inspectors

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Sanitary Inspectors' Summary for the year ending December 31st, 1945

NUISANCES:—

Complaints received	114
Nuisances observed	212
Nuisances abated	109
Nuisances unabated or work in hand	103
Sanitary Conveniences repaired	26
Drains tested	18
New drains laid and tested	14
New gully traps fixed	15
New chambers constructed	9
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private) ...	5
New water closets fixed	7
Licences issued for essential repairs etc. ...	85

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

Visits to infectious cases	79
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	53
Houses disinfected	68

WATER SUPPLIES:—

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies ...	26
Houses provided with supplies from new public mains ...	7
Old connections and service pipes renewed ...	39

HOUSING:—

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts (including 712 special survey) ...	730
Number of inspections made ...	748
Houses recorded under Consolidation Regulations ...	0
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (excluding special survey) ...	0
Representations made ...	1
Demolition orders served ...	0
Closing Orders served ...	1
Undertakings given by Owners ...	0
Houses with structural or other defects (exclusion of survey)	18
Houses, defects remedied ...	12
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ...	0
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	33
No. of Visits made under the Public Health Acts ...	98
Number of houses with defects ...	33
Number of houses with defects repaired ...	17

CAMPING:—

Licences issued under P.H.A. 1936 (Section 269), Camping Sites 5. Individual Moveable Dwellings 2	7
Visits of Inspection	12

SEWERING:—

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties) regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections	18
Private drains connected to public sewers	4
Privies converted to water carriage system	4
New water closets built	2
New gully traps fixed	7
New chambers constructed	5

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS:—

On the Register at the end of the year (Producers and Wholesalers 455 Producers and Retailers 75 Retail Purveyors 6, Producers and Butter-makers 60)	596
Visits of inspection	452
Number of registered premises (including 1 new cowshed) structurally improved	19
Milk Cooler Houses constructed	10
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Analysis (see table page 20)	231
(105 were unsatisfactory as to cleanliness).	

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION:—

Number of slaughter-houses on the Register—	
Now used as Meat Stores	15
Number of licensed Slaughtermen	40
Inspections made (including assistance at Maryport Abattoir)	103
Condemned in private traders' shops or stores:—	
19 14½oz. Tins Evaporated Milk blown or damaged	
1 12oz. tin of luncheon meat " "	
1 4½oz. tin of Sardines " "	
1 15oz. tin of Mackarel " "	
55 Oxo cubes contaminated	
62 lbs. of Jam "	
2½ lbs. of Tea "	
28½ lbs. of Margarine contaminated	
135 lbs. of Oranges decomposed	
21 stones of Potatoes "	

FACTORIES (including Workshops and Bakehouses).

On the Register at the end of the year	67
Visits of inspection	73

SHOPS' ACT, 1934:—

Registered premises	36
Visits of inspection	44

SCAVENGING:—

Foul ashpits reported and cleansed (private)	8
Number of houses from which refuse is removed by Council's contractors	4,076

NOTICES:—

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory)	79
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory)	4
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory)	7
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory)	3
Under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 (Intimatory)	262
Under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 (Statutory)	0

GEORGE NELSON, M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary and Housing Inspector.



11 FEB 1947
O.H. 75